

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been amended. Claims 15-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 remain for further consideration. The rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1-3. Claims 1, 6-10 and 12 currently stand rejected for allegedly being anticipated by the subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,188,447 to Rudolph *et al.* (hereinafter “Rudolph”).

Claim 1

Amended claim 1 recites a method for operating a radio reception system. The system includes a plurality of receivers assigned to a common output device, where a first one of the receivers is designated as an audio receiver and is tuned to a frequency of a radio transmitter having a transmitter identifier code and outputs a signal received from the radio transmitter to the output device, and where a second one of the receivers is designated as a search receiver.

The method includes the steps of:

- “stepping the search receiver through its frequency band for a frequency signal value associated with the radio transmitter and determining a measure of the signal strength of the frequency signal value;

- comparing the signal strength of the signal received by the search receiver and the signal strength of the signal received by the audio receiver;

- tuning the search receiver to the frequency signal value if the measure of the signal strength of the frequency signal value is better than the measure of the signal strength associated with the current signal received by the audio receiver such that the search receiver is now designated the audio receiver and assumes the operation thereof and the audio receiver is now designated the search receiver and assumes the operation thereof; and

- repeating the steps of stepping, comparing and tuning.” (cl. 1).

Upon a fair and proper reading, Rudolph fails to disclose the step of amended claim 1 of “*tuning the search receiver to the frequency signal value if the measure of the signal strength*

of the frequency signal value is better than the measure of the signal strength associated with the current signal received by the audio receiver such that the search receiver is now designated the audio receiver and assumes the operation thereof and the audio receiver is now designated the search receiver and assumes the operation thereof.” That is, the method of amended claim 1 claims the feature that if the signal found by the search receiver is better than the signal being received by the audio receiver, then the search receiver now operates as the audio receiver and the audio receiver now operates as the search receiver – i.e., the two receivers “swap” functions. This way, the radio reception system uses the relatively best available audio signal. Support for the amended claim language in amended claim 1 is found in the specification as filed on page 5, lines 7-11; page 10, lines 3-9; and page 11, lines 2-10.

In contrast, Rudolph discloses a system with two receivers – a main receiver 2 and a second receiver 5. The main receiver is tuned to a frequency while the second receiver detects all incoming frequencies. When a frequency is detected that is better than the frequency that the main receiver is tuned to, the main receiver is then switched to this better frequency. This switching is accomplished by switching the signal path from the main receiver to the second receiver, which then directs the signal through the television during a transient period until the frequency of the main receiver is switched to the new frequency. This switching during the transient period is done to ensure continuous signal reception without interruptions. See, column 1, line 67 through column 2, line 25; column 3, line 34 through column 4, line 3; and FIG. 1.

Thus, the system disclosed in Rudolph does not have its two receivers “swap” functions, as recited in amended claim 1. In fact Rudolph is devoid of any disclosure or suggestion that the main receiver in Rudolph functions in any manner whatsoever during the transient time period,

let alone as a search receiver. As such, the system of amended claim 1 and that of Rudolph are in sharp distinction, so much so that Rudolph cannot be held to anticipate amended claim 1.

As a result, it is submitted that the anticipation rejection of amended claim 1 is moot and should be removed, and it is requested that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance and should be passed to issuance.

Claim 6

Amended claim 6 recites a motor vehicle radio reception system. The system includes:

“a first receiver that performs an audio receiver function by tuning to receive a signal from a transmitter and providing a received signal indicative thereof and a first quality signal indicative of signal strength of the received signal;

a second receiver that performs a search receiver function by scanning through an associated reception range of the second receiver to identify a frequency signal value associated with the transmitter and providing a second quality signal indicative of signal strength of a signal associated with the frequency signal value;

where the first receiver compares the first quality signal and if the second quality signal indicates a better signal quality than the first quality signal the second receiver performs the audio receiver function by tuning to the frequency signal value and the first receiver performs the search receiver function.” (cl. 6).

Upon a fair and proper reading and similar to the discussion with respect to amended claim 1 hereinabove, Rudolph fails to disclose the feature of amended claim 6 of “*where the first receiver compares the first quality signal and if the second quality signal indicates a better signal quality than the first quality signal the second receiver performs the audio receiver function by tuning to the frequency signal value and the first receiver performs the search receiver function.*” That is, the system of amended claim 6 claims the feature that if the signal found by the search receiver is better than the signal being received by the audio receiver, then

the search receiver now operates as the audio receiver and the audio receiver now operates as the search receiver – i.e., the two receivers “swap” functions. This way, the radio reception system uses the relatively best available audio signal. Support for the amended claim language in claim 1 is found in the specification as filed on page 5, lines 7-11; page 10, lines 3-9; and page 11, lines 2-10.

In contrast, Rudolph discloses a system with two receivers – a main receiver 2 and a second receiver 5. The main receiver is tuned to a frequency while the second receiver detects all incoming frequencies. When a frequency is detected that is better than the frequency that the main receiver is tuned to, the main receiver is then switched to this better frequency. This switching is accomplished by switching the signal path from the main receiver to the second receiver, which then directs the signal through the television during a transient period until the frequency of the main receiver is switched to the new frequency. This switching during the transient period is done to ensure continuous signal reception without interruptions. See, column 1, line 67 through column 2, line 25; column 3, line 34 through column 4, line 3; and FIG. 1.

Thus, the system disclosed in Rudolph does not have its two receivers “swap” functions, as recited in amended claim 6. In fact Rudolph is devoid of any disclosure or suggestion that the main receiver in Rudolph functions in any manner whatsoever during the transient time period, let alone that the main receiver functions as a search receiver. As such, the system of amended claim 6 and that of Rudolph are in sharp distinction, so much so that Rudolph cannot be held to anticipate amended claim 6.

As a result, it is submitted that the anticipation rejection of amended claim 6 is moot and should be removed, and it is requested that amended claim 6, together with its dependent claims 7-10 and 12, are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issuance.

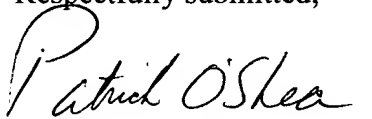
4. Claims 2-5, 11, 13-14 currently stand rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in Rudolph and U.S. Patent 5,548,836 to Taromaru et al (hereinafter "Taromaru").

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these dependent claims is moot, since their associated independent claim, either claim 1 or claim 6, is patentable for at least the reasons set forth in paragraphs above.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick O'Shea". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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